



2020 Landgrove, Vermont
ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ending December 31, 2020

2021 Town Meeting is Different

Since the COVID-19 Pandemic will not allow us to gather in our beloved Town Hall this year, our Select Board has voted to conduct our annual town voting by Australian Ballot with an accompanying Zoom Hearing in place of our Town Meeting.

We all miss getting together—Town Meeting is a welcome gathering at the end of a dark long winter and just before Mud Season and maple sugaring- but for this year, remote is the safest way to go for our community. Let's all do our best so next year we can return to the kind of in person Meeting and potluck we all love!

The Hearing will take place during the hours we would normally have Town Meeting—Monday March 1 at 6:00 PM—but conducted via Zoom conference by the Select Board, and will allow the Board members to go over the reports and tables in this Town Report as well as the 5 ballot questions. The Questions this year are the minimal ones required by law- electing Town Officers, paying our bills, generating revenue to do so, and setting the 2022 Town Meeting.

To access the Zoom Hearing on Mar 1, 2021 06:00 PM, you may either...

USE YOUR WEB BROWSER:

Go to www.ZOOM.us and click "Join a Meeting"

**Enter the Meeting ID: 818 6879 5356
and the passcode: 333981**

BY SMART PHONE

**dial +13017158592 then enter 81868795356# and when prompted,
the passcode 333981**

YOU CAN ALSO CALL IN BY ORDINARY TELEPHONE:

**Dial (929) 205 6099 and when prompted, enter the
Meeting ID: 818 6879 5356**

**Then the passcode: 333981. All participants will be muted upon arrival,
the Select Board will host the meeting.**

It would not hurt to get familiar with Zoom in advance of the meeting, ask a family member or friend who is familiar, or you have questions please talk to your Town Clerk about how to access the meeting.

**clerk@landgrove.vermont.gov
824-3716 on Thursday mornings
At home 824-5394 on other days.**

2021 TOWN MEETING BALLOT

By now, registered Landgrove voters will have received by mail the bright green ballot (pre-printed ballots are called the "Australian ballot" method of voting) for the Town Meeting vote and the salmon-colored ballot for the Taconic and Green School District in the mail.

You may make your choices on the ballots and return them in the envelopes provided by mail—please mail early to ensure arrival by March 2nd, or they will be too late to be counted.

You may return them by hand during office hours to the Town Hall ballot box. 9–1 on Thursdays!

And as always, you may come vote in person on March 2nd between 8am and 7pm. We love to see you! Please wear your mask and keep apart for safety and good health- we aren't out of this yet!

2020
ANNUAL REPORT
TOWN OF LANDGROVE
VERMONT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

AUDITORS

ELIZABETH DEE • TOVE STIGUM • CHARLIE HOWARD

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Useful Information

Landgrove Town Offices

Phone/fax: (802) 824-3716
Email: clerk@landgrove.vermont.gov
Mailing address: 88 Landgrove Road • Landgrove, VT 05148
Hours: Thursdays, 9am - 1pm, or by appointment
Website: landgrove.vermont.gov

Town Clerk: Chrystal Cleary
(802) 824-5394 (home)
Town Treasurer: Andrea Ogden
treasurer@landgrove.vermont.gov
Road Commissioner: Steve Hall
(802) 824-6622 (home)
Fire Warden: Karl T. Pfister
(802) 824-4663 (office)
Assistant Fire Warden: Jeremiah Evarts
(802) 683-0518 (for burn permits)
Select Board Chair: John Ogden
(802) 366-0317 (cell)

Community Resources

Londonderry Landfill & Recycle:
<http://www.londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/>
Phone: (802) 824-5506
Open: Closed Wednesdays, call for specific hours.

Londonderry Post Office: (802) 824-6571
Window hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 - 12 & 2 - 4:30pm
Sat 8:30 - 11:30am

Flood Brook School: (802) 824-6811
Burr & Burton Academy: (802) 362-1775
Green Mountain Power: (800) 451-2877 (report outages)

Mountain Valley Medical Clinic: (802) 824-6901
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:00 - 5:00pm
On-call phone: 24 hours

VT State Police: (802) 442-5421 (non-emergency)
Senators: Brian Campion, bcampion@leg.state.vt.us
Dick Sears, rsears@leg.state.vt.us
House of Representatives: Linda Joy Sullivan, lsullivan@leg.state.vt.us

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

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TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Vital Statistics

Town of Landgrove, County of Bennington

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Population | 157* |
| Voters | 142 |
| Area | 5,586 acres |
| 2020 Homestead Rate = | \$1.8585 |
| Non-Homestead Rate = | \$1.8835 |
| Number of Taxable parcels = | 200 |
| Total Property Valuation = | \$117,277,926 |
| Students: | |
| PreK–8th grade | 20 |
| 9th–12th grade | 11 |

BIRTHS

none

MARRIAGES

May 24 2020 Rachel J. Houlihan to Jeremy W. Peters

August 8, 2020 Katherine A. Needham to Mathews M.H. Degan

August 8, 2020 Ariana E. Lepper to Ely Key

DEATHS

Maureen D, Checchia

October 5, 1953 - December 20, 2020

* Source: 2019- U.S. Census

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Landgrove Checklist

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| ADAMS, LEIGH | ENGLISH, JOHN | JORDAN, ROBERT | REED, SARAH |
| ADAMS, RICHARD | ENGLISH, MARY | JOYCE, JILLIAN | REED, WILLIAM |
| AMEDEN, JAMES | ESPOSITO, JENNIFER | KEANE, JOHN | SABOL, BROOKE |
| AMEDEN, JOSEPHINE | EVARTS, JEREMIAH | KEANE, MARY | SABOL, HAYLEY |
| BELLINGHAM, WHITNEY | EVARTS, KARA | KEY, ELY | SABOL, MATTHEW |
| BIGELOW, HELENA | EVARTS, QUINN | KIMBALL, LESLIE | SABOL, ROBERT |
| BIGELOW, JONATHAN | FANELLI, RYAN | KLINE, CHRISTOPHER | SABOL, TARA |
| BIGELOW, MARY | FOSTER, KATE | LANGEVIN, LORI | SALZ, LOUIS |
| BIGELOW, MAY | FOSTER, RYAN | LAPRADE, VIRGINIA | SNYDER, D. JAY |
| BLACK, SANDY | FREEMAN, BENJAMIN | LENOX, SUSAN | SNYDER, KATHY |
| BURKE, AIDAN | GELLERT, SUSANNA | LEPPER, ARIANA | SOUCY, HOPE |
| CARELESS, AMANDA | GRAYSON, CARINTHIA | LICATA, MARY | SOUCY, NATHALIE |
| CARELESS, NICHOLAS | GRAYSON, PRISCILLA | LUX, HARRY | STIGUM, TOVE |
| CHALMERS, ASA | GREENFIELD, SARA | MALLARD, EMILY | SWARTZENTRUBER, JAMES |
| CHALMERS, CAMERON | HADDEN, JOHN | MALLARD, JOHN | SWARTZENTRUBER, SONYA |
| CHECCHIA, THOMAS | HADDEN, REILLY | MALLARD, JULIE | SWEETMAN, CHARLES |
| CHHUN, KELLY A | HALL, STEVEN | MCCAW, WILLIAM | SWEETMAN, MARION |
| CHHUN, VIRIA | HARDING-LAPRADE, ZACHARY | MCCLARAN, ANNE | THOMSON, KAREN |
| CLEARY, CHRYSTAL | HARRIS, BRENNAN | MCCLARAN, TIM | THOMSON, PETER |
| CLEARY, JEFFERSON | HARRIS, CLAUDIA | MCNAIR, DANA | TOLBERT, EVELYN |
| CLEARY, RAYE | HARRIS, SUSAN | MCNAIR, DYLAN | TOLBERT, JOHN |
| COLE, DALEN | HARRIS, THOMAS | MCNAIR, MALCOLM | TOMKINSON, VICTORIA |
| COLE, JULIETTA | HEALY, HEIDI | MOLE, MICHAEL | USHER, BARBARA |
| COLLINS, ELIZABETH | HEALY, MIKE | MORFIT, CHRISTINE | WAITE, ROBERT |
| COLLINS, ROBYN | HEINEMANN, NANCIE | MORFIT, MICHAEL | WAITE, SARAH |
| COLLINS, SUSAN | HENSON, ANNA | NICHOLS, CLARENCE | WENGERD, JOSHUA |
| DEE, ELIZABETH | HENSON, COLLEEN | NICHOLS, PAULINE | WENGERD, NICOLE |
| DEGAN, KATHARINE | HENSON, CRAIG | OGDEN, ANDREA | WILEY, JOHN |
| DEGAN, MATHEWS | HOULIHAN, RACHEL | OGDEN, BENJAMIN | WYLIE, JAMIE |
| DOMBROSKI, BRITTANY | HOWARD, CHARLES | OGDEN, JOHN | WYLIE, JOSHUA |
| DOMBROSKI, JACOB | HUMPHREY, GARRETT | OGDEN, KATHARINE | YOUNG, HELEN |
| DOMMENGE, KEVIN | JEFFERY, MARIAN | OGDEN, MARY | ZIELINSKI, SCOTT |
| DUFFY, ROBERT | JEFFERY, MICHAEL | OGDEN, SHEILA | |
| ECKHARDT, JOHN | JOHNSON, FRANK | PETERS, JEREMY | |
| ECKHARDT, KIMBERLY | JOHNSON, SARAH | PETERSON, ALICE | |
| ECKHARDT, LYNN | JORDAN, JEAN | PFISTER, KAREN | |
| EMERSON, NATHALIE | | PFISTER, KARL T. | |

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

WARNING AND NOTICE TOWN of LANDGROVE 2021 Annual Town Meeting HEARING

Legal voters of the Town of Landgrove, County of Bennington, State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified of the Annual Meeting HEARING to be conducted via **Zoom online conference** on Monday, March 1st, 2021 at 6:00 PM to hear the Officers' reports and overview of Articles to be voted by Australian ballot.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81868795356?pwd=ckVSVm5nMHhBbnhHQUZkd0VlT0JBUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 6879 5356.

Passcode: 333981

By mobile phone:

+13017158592,,81868795356#,,,,*333981# US

By Telephone:

+1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 818 6879 5356

Passcode: 333981

Vote at the Town Hall at 88 Landgrove Road on Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021 between 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM to transact the following business by Australian ballot on the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1: To elect officers as required by law:

Town Moderator for a term of 1 year

Town Clerk for a term of 1 year

Town Treasurer for a term of 1 year

Selectboard for a term of 3 years

Town Auditor for a term of 3 years

Town Lister for a term of 3 years

Town Lister for a term of 2 years

Cemetery Commissioner for a term of 5 years

Collector of Delinquent Taxes- 1 year term

Town Constable for a term of 1 year

Trustee of Public Funds for a term of 3 years

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town authorize its Selectboard to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds toward the proposed budget?

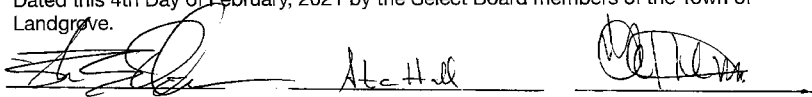
ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes on October 1, 2021 by delivery to town hall postmarked on or before that date?

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations detailed in the Town Report for the 2021 year?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town agree to meet in 2022 on the first Monday before the first Tuesday in March (February 28, 2022) at 6pm for the annual Town Meeting?

Polls are open from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Dated this 4th Day of February, 2021 by the Select Board members of the Town of Landgrove.



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Town Officers Elected

| POSITION | NAMES | TERM EXPIRES |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| Moderator (1 year term) | Claudia Harris | 2021 |
| Town Clerk (1 year term) | Chrystal Cleary | 2021 |
| Town Treasurer (1 year term) | Andrea Ogden | 2021 |
| Select Board (3 year term) | Steve Hall | 2021 |
| | John Ogden | 2022 |
| | Michael Jeffery | 2023 |
| Board of Auditors (3 year term) | Charlie Howard | 2021 |
| | Liza Dee | 2022 |
| | Tove Stigum | 2023 |
| Board of Listers (3 year term) | Blair McCaw | 2021 |
| | Chuck Sweetman | 2022 |
| | vacant | 2023 |
| Cemetery Commission (5 year term) | | |
| | May Bigelow | 2022 |
| | Jay Snyder | 2023 |
| | Lynn Eckhardt | 2024 |
| Collector of Delinquent Taxes (1 year term) | Dick Adams | 2025 |
| | Lori Langevin | 2021 |
| Grand Juror (1 year term) | Claudia Harris | 2021 |
| Town Agent (1 year term) | John Hadden | 2021 |
| Town Constable (1 year term) | John Wiley | 2021 |
| Trustee of Public Funds (3 year term) | Sarah Waite | 2021 |
| | Dick Adams | 2022 |
| | Andrea Ogden | 2023 |
| School Director (3 year term) | Ben Freeman | 2023 |

Justices of the Peace

Claudia Harris, Virginia LaPrade, Christine Morfit, John Ogden,
and Charles Sweetman

Justices of the Peace are elected by paper ballot during the November Elections. The term of a justice of the peace begins on February 1 of the year following the general election and runs for two years. 4 V.S.A. § 491. All of Landgrove's current Justices of the Peace were elected in November of 2020, and their term expires in 2022.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board

| POSITION | NAME | 3 YEAR TERM EXPIRES |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Zoning Administrator | Will Goodwin | 2022 |
| Planning Commission | Harry Lux (chair) | 2022 |
| (includes ZA) | Michael Morfit | 2022 |
| | Ryan Foster | 2023 |
| | Josh Wengerd | 2023 |
| | Mary Licata | 2024 |
| Zoning Board of Adjustment | Harry Lux (chair) | 2022 |
| (includes all members of the Planning Comm, Except the Zoning Administrator) | | |
| Health Officer | Cameron Chalmers | 2022 |
| BCRC Member | vacant | |

| | | 1 YEAR TERM EXPIRES |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Town Service Officer | Chair, Select Board | 2021 |
| Emergency Management | John Ogden | 2021 |
| Forest Fire Warden | Karl T. Pfister | 2021 |
| Asst. Fire Warden | Jeremiah Evarts | 2021 |
| Road Commissioner | Steve Hall | 2021 |
| Assistant Town Treasurer | Lori Langevin | 2021 |
| Assistant Town Clerk | Lori Langevin | 2021 |
| 911 Coordinator | Will Goodwin | 2020 |

Please note that all Select Board-appointed Officers serve from January 1 of their appointment year to December 31 of the year listed here.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Minutes of Town Meeting 2020

Call to order at 6:02 PM

Chrystal Cleary read the voter checklist and took the roll.

Lynn Eckhardt led the town in the pledge of allegiance to open Town Meeting, and all were welcomed by Select Board Chair John Ogden who read the first article. Lynn E. thanked Chrystal and Jeff Cleary for designing a beautiful town report.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. Claudia Harris was nominated by John Ogden, and approved by the voters. Claudia went over rules, and asked non-voters to introduce themselves.

Lucy Bolognese from the Collaborative spoke about the collaborative mission, then our state senator Brian Campion highlighted issues in the senate, including bills about the minimum wage, Act 250 revisions, a bill to encourage consolidation in downtowns to combat sprawl. There's also an agriculture bill, Bennington County as a Food Hub, carbon sequestration, transition farmers, prescription drug costs, maximizing out of pocket costs for insulin. Firearm regulations are being resubmitted after the Governor's veto.

A motion to table ARTICLES 2, 3 & 4 and hear the Officers' reports (ARTICLE 5) was moved and advanced. Select Board member Michael Jeffery presented findings on Town Financials and handed out a packet of revised accounting tables, since the Town Report was published.

ARTICLE 5: To hear the reports of Town Officers and take proper action on the Auditors' report. Moved by Lynn Eckhardt. Select Board member Michael Jeffery reported that the Town collected just over \$74K more in taxes than budgeted, because the tax rate numbers applied by the treasurer were incorrect: the roads budget portion was assessed at .2455 instead of .1739. The overage has been rolled into the next year's budget and was an error of transposition of numbers.

The next issue was one of presentation, but did not affect the taxes collected or budget. Balance sheet had not been reconciled to the income statement. The correction is reflected in the handout.

The last finding under review was that the Town's account has been accumulating a surplus over at least the last 8 years and multiple treasurers of more than \$250,000 in the operating account, which has been moved to the unallocated reserve fund. The Select Board proposes using some of this toward the sand shed and vehicle purchases coming up soon. Future surpluses will be rolled into the next year's budget and tax rates will be adjusted for any surplus.

Remedial steps: The Select Board is considering hiring a professional auditor to review all financials, the annual report, and tax rate at intervals going forward, as well as an annual cash flow statement reflecting town spend against revenue and quarterly reconciliation of the balance sheet and income statement. The Board also recommends the appointment of an Assistant Town Treasurer/Assistant Clerk who can be trained and available for election someday into either office. (Assistant Treasurer/Clerks are appointed by the Treasurer and Clerk.)

Discussion:

Mary English- asks for clarification on the \$250,000 fund. The Select Board replies that this is the excess amount. Over the years, any surplus was just left to build up in that account. (underspend or overtax.) A rainy day fund is a good idea, many towns have them, but this (12%) is too much. 6 or 7% is more appropriate for other towns' best practices. SB will keep that at 6-7% and sweep the extra into reducing the next year's burden. This overage was showing in the operating account each year's Town Report, but it can be hard to see or understand. Virginia LaPrade asked if saving the excess is needed in case a family with lots of kids moved in and we owed more to the education budget? Select Board Chair John Ogden replies that we aren't affected by that any more since we joined the merged School District.

Greg Eckhardt asked if it is the SB positions that the way we are doing this now is the right way, or are there other programs, such as NEMRC, that would prevent this? Michael says Quickbooks is fine, it was a manual error, and training must be emphasized for Treasurers going forward.

School Director Ben Freeman thanked previous School Director Jeff Cleary for his service last year. At the District meeting in Dorset last week, he learned that the school district budget will increase 4% due to an increase in high school enrollment and health care costs.

Road Commissioner Steve Hall reports that repairs have been done to 90% of the damage from the April 15th storm. Some resurfacing will take place in the spring. Roads budget overages are expected to be covered by FEMA grants, just not in this fiscal year. Cody Road was resurfaced last summer to help with Mud Season. Tarpley got ditched and resurfaced. Nichols Road received ditching & resurfacing, noting that it does help with potholes and mud season if the roads drain well. Plowing snow is a lot easier for Jay to keep up with, vs the ice

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

events we are having lately. Cameron has been helping get to smaller back roads sooner, as well as in times when our town truck goes down with repairs. Road restrictions are posted and in effect now until April 15th- trucking companies have been notified that they are not allowed. Passage of ARTICLE 5 is moved by Jay Snyder, and the article passes.

Johnathan Bigelow moved to consider ARTICLE 8, seconded by Chuck Sweetman.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to enter into a communications union district (CUD) to be known as Southern Vermont Communications Union District, under the provisions of 30 VSA Ch 82? The Article is moved by Mary English

Discussion: Mr. Eric Hatch described how a communication union district allows towns to group together to arrange internet service. This has worked before in Vermont. 27 towns got together, hired an ISP and a construction company to provide fiber optic service to their towns and become self-funding. Step 1 is for towns to decide to join up to investigate first. Then a representative from each town will be appointed to the board, which will organize a feasibility study and a business plan to determine what it costs and how to raise it. Tax revenues are not allowed to go into the CUD, so it costs the town nothing, it is funded by State and USDA grants. As a municipal entity, the CUD could also raise bonds for the upfront costs for infrastructure. As it progresses and matures, there will be a monthly revenue stream from subscribers. Rather than pay, for example, Comcast, you would pay the CUD, which is local.

The CUD would be looking for 5-6 customers per mile on average vs the big companies who require 20+ customers per mile. World class fiber, speed 100's of gigabits per minute up- and down-loaded. Kimberly Eckhardt asked: Would this guarantee every home would be eligible for service? Eventually, yes. Your representative will advocate for that. Will Reed calls the question to end debate, which is upheld by the voters, and ARTICLE 8 passes.

ARTICLE 2, "Shall the term of the office of Town Clerk be changed from 1 year to 3 years?" is opened for discussion. Mary English asked: where did this come from? Articles 2, 3 and 7 originated from citizen petitions. Chuck Sweetman states that we have 3 year terms for Listers, Select Board, etc. and recommends a Yes vote. John Ogden reminds the voters that there are no other controls over these positions, you can only vote them out next time. Chuck states that he believes the voters can recall them. Priscilla Grayson says that the Clerk and Treasurer tend to hold office for a long time, regardless of term.

Will article three pass Clerk to 3 years? Voice vote is unclear, so paper ballots are called for. Article 2 does not pass.

ARTICLE 3 – To extend the Term of the office of the Treasurer from 1 to 3 years. Sally moves to discuss. Michael Jeffery offers that this role is even more important than Clerk with regard to expertise to do the job. The number of years could tie the hands of the Town, putting the Town at risk. John Ogden says it's not onerous to vote every year and it's a good safeguard. Harry Lux stated that with controls, oversight and support, the right person could grow into a long term Treasurer. Michael Jeffery reminded the meeting that this Article is not about individuals, it's the office. Greg calls the question, 2/3 vote to end debate and vote. Debate closes. John Ogden moved to vote- Article 3 does not pass.

ARTICLE 4: To elect town officers as required by law (see table at right).

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will authorize its Select Board to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds toward the proposed budget. Moved: Jay Snyder. No discussion. Motion to Approve: Sally Waite. Article 6 passes.

ARTICLE 7: To see whether the Town will appropriate \$7,000 one time funding to the Cemetery Commission to clear the trees, brush and stumps from outside the walls of the Old Cemetery (leaving the old maples) and seed the ground.

Moved: John Bigelow. Discussion: It cleans up and improves visibility (view of Leurich Field) Lynn Eckhardt states that we've done a lot of work straightening the stones and are proud of our cemeteries, time to make the old one wonderful too. Motion to Approve: Sally Waite. Article 7 passes

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to pay its taxes on real and personal property on or before October 1, 2019. Moved: Kathy Snyder, there is no discussion. Motion to Approve: Will Reed, and Article 9 Passes.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations for the 2020 year. Moved: John Bigelow. Discussion: Greg Eckhardt- Why does the Town charge the historical society \$701 in rent? John Ogden: we charge them \$1 in rent and \$700 is a share of utilities. Jay Snyder: What's the increase in insurance? It covers the 4th of July picnic so the Community Club doesn't have to. Motion to Approve: Jay Snyder moves it. Article 10 passes.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

ARTICLE 11: To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles. Moved: Peter Thompson. John Ogden describes a request for funding that came late, he would like to get a sense of the town's feeling on a request by the Northshire Area Trails System for \$1500 of a total of \$15,000 to rebuild a mountain bike trail bridge on the Stone Place Trail in Peru. Will Reed voices support. Someone asked if this is a GMNF road. No, it's a Town of Peru Class 4 road. Greg Eckhardt states he is not interested in paying our tax money for a bridge in Peru. Motion to approve Article 11. Kathy Snyder. Article 11 passes.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will agree to meet in 2021 on the first Monday before the first Tuesday in March (March 1st) at 6pm for the annual Town Meeting. Moved: Will Reed. Discussion: Mary English moves to amend the article to change the time to 5pm Seconded by Tove Stigum, Harry Lux points out that working people can't make it for 5. Keep it six. Mary withdraws the amendment Motion to Approve: Mary Licata, ARTICLE 12 passes.

Motion to Adjourn- Claudia Harris, ayes have it. Meeting is adjourned at 8:38 pm

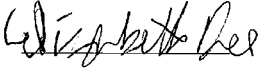
Respectfully Submitted by Chrystal Cleary, Town Clerk

| officer | term | candidate | Nominated by |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Town Clerk | 1 year | Chrystal Cleary | Greg Eckhardt, Michael |
| Town Treasurer | 1 year | Kimberly Eckhardt | Greg Eckhardt, Chuck Sweetmabn |
| | | Andrea Ogden * voted in | Sally Waite, Bobby Waite |
| Selectboard Member | 3 years | Michael Jeffery | Sally Waite, Kathy Snyder |
| Auditor | 3 years | Tove Stigum | Mary English, Ben Freeman |
| Lister | 3 years | Kimberly Eckhardt | Chuck Sweetman, Kathy Snyder |
| Cemetery Commissioner | 5 year | Richard Adams | Clarence Nichols, Lynn Eckhardt |
| Collector of Delinquent Taxes | 1 year | Kimberly Eckhardt | Michael Jeffery, (missing) |
| Grand Juror | 1 year | Claudia Harris | Lynn Eckhardt, Michael Jeffery |
| Town Agent | 1 year | John Hadden | John Ogden, Dana McNair |
| Constable | 1 year | John Wiley, Jr. | Kathy Snyder, Dana McNair |
| Trustee of Public Funds | 3 years | Andrea Ogden | Lynn Eckhardt, Peter Thompson |

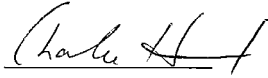
TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Auditors' Report

We, the undersigned auditors of the Town of Landgrove, performed an audit of the Town's financial statements of the year ended December 31st, 2020. We wish to report that all accounts are in balance.



Elizabeth Dee



Charlie Howard



Tove Stigum

TOWN MEETING CHANGES FOR 2020

THE HEARING:

**Mon. March 1 at 6pm via Zoom
(see inside front cover for details)**

TO VOTE:

**at Town Hall Tue. March 2 8am–7pm,
or mail (ballots mailed to you)**

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Town Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2020

Bank Balances

| | 2019 | 2020 | Change |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Town Assets | | | |
| Peoples Bank | 4,818.04 | 5,499.31 | 681.27 |
| Stifel Nicolaus | 1,301,795.66 | 1,269,764.72 | (32,030.94) |
| Petty Cash | - | 182.82 | 182.82 |
| Cemetery Assets | | | |
| Peoples Bank | 10,339.90 | 20,040.32 | 9,700.42 |
| Public Funds held at Stifel Nicolaus | | | |
| Cemetery | 65,928.02 | 78,708.61 | 12,780.59 |
| Conservation | 27,661.22 | 31,925.86 | 4,264.64 |

Town Fund Balances

| | 2019 | 2020 | Change |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Operating | 846,837.02 | 765,934.76 | (80,902.26) |
| Dog License Account | 3,141.81 | 3,213.08 | 71.27 |
| Fire Truck | - | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Reappraisal | 15,851.69 | 13,657.81 | (2,193.88) |
| Records Restoration | 2,379.98 | 5,629.98 | 3,250.00 |
| Roads Equipment | 155,000.00 | 185,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| Town Hall Maintenance | 20,592.79 | 23,092.79 | 2,500.00 |
| Unallocated Reserve | 250,000.00 | 242,242.88 | (7,757.12) |

Operating Account can be found on the following page
Reserve Funds can be found on page 20

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Operating Account

This account is used for all town transactions that are not included in the town's seven reserve funds, the cemetery account or the Trustee of Public Funds accounts. These types of transactions include General Fund and Roads transactions, education payments and other areas of general town business.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Opening Balance | 846,837.02 |
| Income | |
| General Fund | 165,237.40 |
| Roads Fund | 199,893.45 |
| Education Tax Income | 1,525,936.70 |
| Del Tax Penalty | 7,456.24 |
| Transfer Station Income | 580.00 |
| Change in Undep Funds | 701.00 |
| Change in Bank Errors | 0.05 |
| Total Income | 1,899,804.84 |
| Expense | |
| General Fund | 159,337.27 |
| Roads | 222,513.90 |
| Education Expenses | |
| Taconic and Green | 410,291.00 |
| VT State Treasurer | 1,175,561.07 |
| Transfer Station Expense | 730.00 |
| Del Tax Penalty Paid | 7,503.22 |
| Change in Accounts Payable | 1,000.00 |
| Change in Payroll Liability | 3,770.64 |
| Total Expense | 1,980,707.10 |
| Balance as of 12/31/20 | 765,934.76 |

Reserve Funds can be found on page 20

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

General Fund Budget

| | ACTUAL | BUDGET | ACTUAL | PROPOSED |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue | | | | |
| Copier | 660.00 | 500.00 | 832.00 | 500.00 |
| Current Use | 54,411.00 | 50,000.00 | 60,214.00 | 55,000.00 |
| General Fund Taxes Received | 73,484.92 | 87,761.35 | 86,581.86 | 89,882.94 |
| Green Mountain Forest | 2,250.00 | 2,100.00 | 2,299.00 | 2,100.00 |
| Interest | 2,638.59 | 1,200.00 | 7,325.59 | 3,000.00 |
| Licenses & Permits | 1,570.00 | 750.00 | 2,523.95 | 750.00 |
| Recording Income | 5,237.00 | 3,500.00 | 4,760.00 | 3,500.00 |
| Rental of Town Hall | 701.00 | 701.00 | 701.00 | 701.00 |
| Total Revenue | 140,952.51 | 146,512.35 | 165,237.40 | 155,433.94 |
| Surplus Applied | 17,000.94 | 11,099.39 | 11,099.39 | 16,999.52 |
| TOTAL | 157,953.45 | 157,611.74 | 176,336.79 | 172,433.46 |
| Expense | | | | |
| Appropriations | | | | |
| Community | | | | |
| Benn Cnty Assoc. Against Child Abuse | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Flood Brook Athletic Association | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Green Mountain Club | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Green Up Vermont | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| Health Care & Rehabilitation Services | 166.00 | 166.00 | 166.00 | 166.00 |
| Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Mountain Valley Medical Clinic | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Neighborhood Connections | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Phoenix Fire Company #6 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| So Londonderry Free Library | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| The Collaborative | 750.00 | 750.00 | 750.00 | 750.00 |
| Visiting Nurse Alliance | 615.00 | 615.00 | 615.00 | 615.00 |
| Total Community | 13,581.00 | 12,581.00 | 12,581.00 | 12,581.00 |
| Town | | | | |
| Cem Endowment | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Cem Maintenance | 11,500.00 | 13,500.00 | 13,500.00 | 6,500.00 |
| Fire Truck | | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Reappraisal Fund | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Records Restoration | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Town Hall Maint Fund | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Total Town | 18,500.00 | 23,000.00 | 23,000.00 | 16,000.00 |
| Total Appropriations | 32,081.00 | 35,581.00 | 35,581.00 | 28,581.00 |
| Taxes, Assessments & Fees | | | | |
| BCRC | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| County Tax | 8,474.15 | 8,500.00 | 8,002.54 | 8,250.00 |
| Londonderry Landfill | 13,500.66 | 12,872.74 | 12,872.74 | 21,887.46 |
| SWNH Fire & Rescue Dispatch | 9,217.00 | 9,494.00 | 9,494.00 | 9,969.00 |
| VT League of Cities & Towns | 1,210.00 | 1,300.00 | 1,258.00 | 1,258.00 |
| Total Taxes, Assessments & Fees | 34,401.81 | 34,166.74 | 33,627.28 | 43,364.46 |

General Fund Budget continued on following page.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

| | 2019 ACTUAL | 2020 BUDGET | 2020 ACTUAL | 2021 PROPOSED |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Admin Costs | | | | |
| Payroll Expenses | 3,060.25 | 2,900.00 | 4,766.03 | 5,860.00 |
| Salaries | | | | |
| Assistant Clerk | | 500.00 | 765.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Assistant Treasurer | | | | 3,000.00 |
| Town Clerk | 16,240.10 | 16,484.00 | 19,296.40 | 16,731.00 |
| Treasurer | 12,034.64 | 12,180.00 | 12,000.04 | 14,000.00 |
| School Director | - | 1,100.00 | 1,100.00 | 1,100.00 |
| Auditors Stipends | | | | 1,500.00 |
| Select Board | 1,000.00 | 3,300.00 | 2,200.00 | 3,300.00 |
| Total Salaries | 32,334.99 | 36,464.00 | 40,127.47 | 47,491.00 |
| Town Hall & Office | | | | |
| Heating Fuel | 2,163.81 | 2,500.00 | 2,293.36 | 2,500.00 |
| IT Systems | 9,604.55 | 5,000.00 | 2,521.78 | 3,700.00 |
| Maintenance & Repairs | 6,729.17 | 6,000.00 | 5,363.74 | 6,000.00 |
| Supplies | 5,503.74 | 1,500.00 | 2,991.89 | 1,500.00 |
| Training | 365.00 | 500.00 | 160.00 | 500.00 |
| Utilities | 2,103.47 | 2,200.00 | 2,138.32 | 2,200.00 |
| Insurance | 10,198.78 | 10,500.00 | 8,434.10 | 10,500.00 |
| Legal | - | 5,000.00 | 3,965.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Auditors | - | | | 4,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous Expense | 30.00 | - | 650.00 | - |
| Town Lands | - | | 3,234.49 | 2,500.00 |
| Town Report | 952.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,652.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Roads Comm Stipend | 1,000.00 | 1,100.00 | 1,100.00 | - |
| Total Hall & Office | 38,650.52 | 35,800.00 | 34,504.68 | 35,900.00 |
| Listers | | | | |
| Lister Stipend | 3,000.00 | 6,600.00 | 6,600.00 | 3,300.00 |
| Lister Administrator | - | 1,000.00 | - | 1,500.00 |
| Tax Mapping | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,037.50 | 3,075.00 |
| Consultant | - | | | 3,000.00 |
| Listers' Expenses | 275.00 | 300.00 | 430.42 | 300.00 |
| Total Lister | 6,275.00 | 10,900.00 | 10,067.92 | 11,175.00 |
| Zoning & Planning | | | | |
| Zoning Administrator | 2,995.00 | 4,000.00 | 4,660.00 | 4,222.00 |
| Chair Zoning Board of Adjustment | | | | 500.00 |
| Chair Planning & Zoning | | | | 500.00 |
| Zoning & Planning Expenses | 251.26 | 700.00 | 768.92 | 700.00 |
| Total Zoning | 3,246.26 | 4,700.00 | 5,428.92 | 5,922.00 |
| Total Expense | 146,989.58 | 157,611.74 | 159,337.27 | 172,433.46 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | 10,963.87 | - | 16,999.52 | - |

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Roads Budget

| | 2019 ACTUAL | 2020 BUDGET | 2020 ACTUAL | 2021 PROPOSED |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenues | | | | |
| Grants - State | 3,700.00 | 15,000.00 | 7,665.60 | 15,000.00 |
| Licenses & Permits | 95.00 | 85.00 | 95.00 | 85.00 |
| Roads Fund Taxes Raised | 251,894.31 | 149,216.44 | 147,284.16 | 172,937.00 |
| VT State Highway Aid | 34,593.73 | 34,000.00 | 44,848.69 | 34,000.00 |
| Total Revenue | 290,283.04 | 198,301.44 | 199,893.45 | 222,022.00 |
| Surplus Applied | 13,344.44 | 50,698.56 | 50,698.56 | 28,078.00 |
| TOTAL | 303,627.48 | 249,000.00 | 250,592.01 | 250,100.00 |
| Expense | | | | |
| Salaries | | | | |
| Road Comm Stipend | | | | 1,100.00 |
| Total Salaries | - | - | - | 1,100.00 |
| General | | | | |
| Equipment Fund | 25,000.00 | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| Gas & Oil | 6,774.78 | 7,500.00 | 5,332.41 | 7,500.00 |
| Insurance Auto | 3,190.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,279.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Machine Maint & Repairs | 11,843.23 | 15,000.00 | 17,266.29 | 15,000.00 |
| Misc | 1,418.56 | 750.00 | 6,587.51 | 1,000.00 |
| Rent | 6,500.00 | 6,500.00 | 6,500.00 | 6,500.00 |
| Training | - | 250.00 | - | - |
| Utilities | 335.73 | 500.00 | 414.65 | 500.00 |
| Total General | 55,062.30 | 63,500.00 | 69,379.86 | 63,500.00 |
| Summer | | | | |
| Chloride | 2,874.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,790.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Culverts | 5,741.68 | 10,000.00 | 9,593.99 | 10,000.00 |
| Ditching | 15,400.00 | 20,000.00 | 22,287.50 | 15,000.00 |
| Grading | 6,714.00 | 10,000.00 | 4,785.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Resurfacing | 26,243.25 | 25,000.00 | 9,231.00 | 20,000.00 |
| Roadside Mowing | 5,950.00 | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| Storm Repair | 14,174.03 | 5,000.00 | - | 5,000.00 |
| Misc Project | | | - | 10,000.00 |
| Total Summer | 77,096.96 | 78,500.00 | 54,687.49 | 78,500.00 |
| Winter | | | | |
| Deicer | 9,543.55 | 9,500.00 | 5,584.65 | 9,500.00 |
| Contracted Services | 34,054.50 | 40,000.00 | 41,323.50 | 40,000.00 |
| Machine Rental | 12,500.00 | 12,500.00 | 13,875.00 | 12,500.00 |
| Road Repairs | 12,083.50 | 5,000.00 | 12,294.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Sand & Materials | 68,264.20 | 40,000.00 | 25,369.40 | 40,000.00 |
| Total Winter | 136,445.75 | 107,000.00 | 98,446.55 | 107,000.00 |
| Total Expense | 268,605.01 | 249,000.00 | 222,513.90 | 250,100.00 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | 35,022.47 | - | 28,078.11 | - |

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Town of Landgrove Vendors Paid over \$5000 January through December 2020

| | <u>Jan - Dec 20</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Vermont State Treasurer | -1,175,951.07 |
| Taconic and Green Regional USD | -410,291.00 |
| Merrill, Curtis Jay | -99,571.77 |
| Merrill's Excavating | -28,572.50 |
| Ogden & Chalmers, LLC. | -22,806.66 |
| Town of Londonderry | -13,602.74 |
| David Chaves | -13,302.00 |
| Cincinnati Insurance Company | -8,590.00 |
| Marc Waldo Landscaping | -7,585.00 |
| Delurey Sales & Service | -6,785.78 |
| NEMRC | -6,715.42 |
| Cargill | -5,584.65 |
| Dorr Oil | -5,335.05 |

Statement of Taxes Raised

| As Tax Rates were Set | Non-Homestead | Homestead | Roads | General Fund | Total |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Grand List Value | 709,635.26 | 270,155.00 | 980,090.26 | 980,090.26 | |
| Tax Rate | 1.6418 | 1.6168 | 0.1522 | 0.0895 | |
| Taxes to be Raised | 1,165,079.17 | 436,786.60 | 149,169.74 | 87,718.08 | 1,838,753.59 |
| As Originally Billed | 1,165,079.10 | 436,786.58 | 149,169.71 | 87,718.09 | 1,838,753.48 |
| Subsequent Adjustments | (9,949.11) | 4,795.43 | (533.45) | (313.70) | |
| As shown on 1/17/20 | 1,155,129.99 | 441,582.01 | 148,636.26 | 87,404.39 | 1,832,752.65 |
| | | | | | <u>(1,825,908.25)</u> |
| | | | | | <u>6,844.40</u> |
| | | | | | Delinquent tax 6,168.64 |
| | | | | | Additional billing 12/24/20 674.98 |
| | | | | | Other 0.78 |
| | | | | | <u>6,844.40</u> |

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Annual Report of Collector of Delinquent Taxes December 31, 2020

| | 1/1/2020 | | | 12/31/2020 |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Year | Outstanding | Collections | Abatements | Balance |
| 2016 | \$12,687.62 | \$363.61 | | \$12,324.01 |
| 2017 | \$5,175.62 | | | \$5,175.62 |
| 2018 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| 2019 | \$23,279.43 | \$23,279.43 | | \$0.00 |
| 2020 (10/1) | \$99,722.79 | \$92,879.17 | | \$6,843.62 |
| | \$140,865.46 | \$116,522.21 | \$0.00 | \$24,343.25 |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Total Collections | \$116,522.21 |
| Interest Received | \$5,119.04 |
| Remitted to Treasurer | \$121,641.25 |
| Del Tax Penalty Collected | \$7,503.22 |
| Paid to Del Tax Collector | \$7,503.22 |

As of December 31, 2020, there are two properties with unpaid taxes from 2016, 2017 & 2020. Information about which properties are delinquent is public information and is available at the town office.

Respectfully submitted

Lori Langevin
Delinquent Tax Collector

Please note, that taxes are due October 1st. Payments received or post-marked after that date are delinquent and subject to a penalty fee of 8% and interest of 1% for the first three months or part thereof and 1.5% per month or part thereafter, as allowed under the laws of the State of Vermont.

TOWN MEETING CHANGES FOR 2020

THE HEARING:
Mon. March 1 at 6pm via Zoom
(see inside front cover for details)

TO VOTE:
at Town Hall Tue. March 2 8am–7pm,
or mail (ballots mailed to you)

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Reserve Funds *pages 20-23*

Dog License Account

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Opening Balance | 3,141.81 |
| Income | |
| Licensing Fees | 413.00 |
| Total Income | 413.00 |
| Expense | |
| IDS Dog Tags | 101.73 |
| State Animal Control | 240.00 |
| Total Expense | 341.73 |
| Balance as of 12/31/20 | 3,213.08 |

This account is mandated by Vermont Statute 20 V.S.A. § 3624 to cover the costs associated with an Animal Control Officer, should the need arise. Landgrove currently does not have an Animal Control Officer on call.

Dog licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office any time after January 1st each year. For a spayed or neutered dog, the charge is \$9 and for an unaltered dog, the charge is \$13. After April 1st, a late charge of \$2 and \$4 will apply for altered and unaltered dogs, respectively. New puppies or dogs acquired after April 1 will be charged half of the regular fee.

Please note that rabies inoculations must be current before a license can be issued.

TOWN MEETING CHANGES FOR 2020

THE HEARING:

**Mon. March 1 at 6pm via Zoom
(see inside front cover for details)**

TO VOTE:

**at Town Hall Tue. March 2 8am–7pm,
or mail (ballots mailed to you)**

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Fire Truck Fund

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Opening Balance | - |
| Income | |
| Town Appropriation | 2,500.00 |
| Total Income | 2,500.00 |
| Expense | |
| No Activity | - |
| Total Expense | - |
| Balance as of 12/31/20 | 2,500.00 |

This fund was established in 2020 for the purposes of spreading out the tax impact of supporting the purchase of new fire equipment by the Phoenix Fire Department in Londonderry. Voters elected to raise \$2500 per year toward this goal.

Reappraisal Fund

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance | 15,851.69 |
| Income | |
| Town Appropriation | 2,500.00 |
| State of VT Equalization | 222.00 |
| State of VT Per Parcel | 1,887.00 |
| Total Income | 4,609.00 |
| Expense | |
| NEMRC Reappraisal Service | 6,600.00 |
| Supplies for Mailing Notices | 202.88 |
| Total Expense | 6,802.88 |
| Balance as of 12/31/20 | 13,657.81 |

The Reappraisal Fund is held in reserve to cover costs associated with a town-wide reappraisal, which last occurred in 2020.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Records Restoration Fund

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Opening Balance | 2,379.98 |
| Income | |
| Town Appropriation | 1,000.00 |
| Per Page - Recording Fees | 2,290.00 |
| Total Income | 3,290.00 |
| Expense | |
| Shipping - 2019 Report Binding | 40.00 |
| Total Expense | 40.00 |
| Balance as of 12/31/20 | 5,629.98 |

The Records Restoration fund is money held in reserve for preserving the town's historical records, primarily our grand lists. Income sources are the town appropriation and the state-mandated \$1 per page recorded by the Town Clerk. Because of the anticipated costs associated with digitizing land records, the amount per page recorded by the Town Clerk in 2020 was increased to \$5 per page.

Road Equipment Fund

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Opening Balance | 155,000.00 |
| Income | |
| Town Appropriation | 30,000.00 |
| Total Income | 30,000.00 |
| Expense | |
| No Activity | - |
| Total Expense | - |
| Balance as of 12/31/20 | 185,000.00 |

This fund is used to minimize the impact to taxpayers of large equipment purchases used to maintain our roads. Taxpayers allocate money to the fund each year and the fund accumulates until it is necessary to draw funds down for a large purchase. The town truck was purchased in 2010 and is starting to show signs of wear. The grader was purchased in 2012.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Town Hall Maintenance Fund

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance | 20,592.79 |
| Income | |
| Town Appropriation | 2,500.00 |
| Total Income | 2,500.00 |
| Expense | |
| No Activity | - |
| Total Expense | - |
| Balance as of 12/31/20 | 23,092.79 |

This fund is intended to grow gradually to help mitigate the costs of large projects associated with proper care and improvements of our town hall building.

Unallocated Reserve Fund

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Opening Balance | 250,000.00 |
| Income | |
| Delinquent Taxes Paid | 23,643.04 |
| Total Income | 23,643.04 |
| Expense | |
| Phoenix Fire Truck Purchase | 25,000.00 |
| Tax Appeal Decision | 538.99 |
| Tax Abatement Process | 5,861.17 |
| Total Expense | 31,400.16 |
| Balance as of 12/31/20 | 242,242.88 |

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Road Commissioner Report

We are happy to say we made it through 2020 without anything too major happening with the town's roads. Our goal was to take care of our normal road maintenance and since there was enough going on in every body's lives due to the pandemic we felt we shouldn't take on any projects that weren't urgent.

We finished our FEMA grant work, which entailed adding crushed gravel to three locations: Old County East, the hill at the end of Nichols Road and on Landgrove Hollow Road. We are waiting on final grant processing in order for the town to receive the grant money.

We ditched along most of the length of Ridge Road and we are hoping this effort will help with mud season by reducing the amount of water the road retains, which will help it dry out sooner in the spring. We also replaced a clogged culvert on Cody Road just north of the intersection with Old County East. Doing it enabled us to work on the ditching on the west side of the road, which should take care of a drainage issue we had a hard time resolving with the old culvert.

For the coming year we have several projects we will be working on. The first item is to make a plan for repairing/ replacing damaged or outdated guard rails throughout the town over the next several years. Phase one will be fixing damaged sections with some extra attention given to the corner on Hapgood Pond Road on the west end of the flats. This section of guard rail has seen extensive use this past winter. We are hoping with some new signage, road grade changes and possibly some improved guardrail design we can help people navigate that corner better.

We are planning on addressing what appears to be a spring in the middle of Ridge Road just as you start down the hill towards route 11. This creates some major issues during our mud seasons. We will also look into ways we can improve the ditching along the lower section of Jaquith Road.

As always if you feel there are road issues that need attention please feel free to let me know. It is helpful to hear from people since I don't get to drive all of our roads most of the time.

Steven Hall, Road Commissioner, 824-6622



Jay has an audience while clearing snow from the roads.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Select Board Report

The Landgrove Select Board would like to join most, if not all, of the rest of Landgrovians in bidding a not so fond farewell to 2020. That being said, I think we are all very thankful that we live where we do. Thank you to all of you for enduring, and continuing to endure, this pandemic, and all it brings with it, with the sense of community and common good that everyone in town has shown.

I would like to extend a big thank you to our Town Clerk and the rest of the town staff for figuring out ways to keep the town functioning under some difficult circumstances. It took a lot of extra work to continue to serve the needs of the public in a safe fashion at the town hall. It took an even greater amount of work to pull off multiple elections in the midst of a pandemic. Thank you, Chrystal! Speaking of elections, Landgrove was once again the Vermont town with the highest percentage of voter participation in the November election. There are a lot of things about this little town that make me very proud, but our frequent position at the top of this list is one of the things that makes me the proudest.

Despite the challenges in 2020, the Select Board did make progress on many fronts. Road maintenance is always a primary concern of the Select Board, but we also dedicated a lot of time and effort to the task of making high-speed connectivity available throughout Landgrove, and to the continued pursuit of a suitable piece of land to house our road equipment and winter sand pile.

The access to quality high speed internet in the town is proceeding at what probably seems to many of you as a maddingly slow pace but is actually pretty fast when considering the complexity of both the engineering and the politics. Our goal of getting every property in town access to a decently fast connection is far from realized but is starting to look at least realizable. There have been a handful of people in town whose efforts have been very important in moving this project forward and we would like to thank them very much for their help.

On the topic of connectivity, it appears that the town hall hotspot is remaining very popular. The Select Board is considering if it would be a good idea to invest in a faster broadband connection at the town hall to make the hotspot even more useful to people while we wait out the process of getting everyone's home hooked up. Any thoughts on taking on this added monthly expense for the town should be directed to the Select Board.

The quest for a suitable location for the town shed/sand pile does look like it might be coming near to a conclusion. We are close to establishing a short list of suitable pieces of land. In addition, we have established a committee that will

FYI

Select Board meetings are held on the 2nd and the 4th Thursdays of each month at 8am at the Town Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to observe the meeting. Please contact the clerk a week in advance of the meeting to get on the agenda. Also, please note that the minutes of the meeting are public record and are available at the Town Hall and on our website at landgrove.vermont.gov.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

oversee the planning, design, budget, and construction of a facility to house both the winter sand and our town vehicles.

On the roads front, we have been exploring ways of managing the safety of our vehicle and pedestrian traffic due to the increased volume of both that we are seeing. The Bennington County Sheriff's Department provided us with some very interesting data on our traffic this summer. The report is in the town hall and I encourage anyone who is interested to stop by and look at it. The combination of higher traffic volumes over the summer months and a lot of recreational activity on the roads is prompting the Select Board and the Road Commissioner to come up with some proposals to keep things safe. Among the possibilities are more signage for both motorists and pedestrians, lowering speed limits in certain areas, and adding radar speed signs to help people mind their speed.

The Select Board meets twice a month and the general public is always welcome. Please come to these meetings with any and all ideas, criticisms, compliments, or constructive advice.

Respectfully submitted,

John Ogden, Select Board Chair

TOWN MEETING CHANGES FOR 2020

THE HEARING:

**Mon. March 1 at 6pm via Zoom
(see inside front cover for details)**

TO VOTE:

**at Town Hall Tue. March 2 8am–7pm,
or mail (ballots mailed to you)**

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Cemetery Commission

We thank Greg Eckhardt and Manchester Veterans of Foreign Wars Post for supplying the flags for the veterans in our cemeteries. These flags are of better quality and lower cost than the ones from our previous source. The damaged flag holders were replaced.

Our stone wall was damaged by a car ramming into it near the main entrance gate. The driver's insurance provided funds to make repairs to the wall and it seems that the sturdy wall prevented damage to nearby headstones.

The cemeteries were mowed by Marc Waldo at ten day intervals which gives us fifteen cuttings a year.

Underbrush and damaged trees were removed along the rear of the Old Cemetery to prevent damage to burial sites, to improve its appearance, and to create space for the new veterans memorial.

We went to the Martin Cemetery to clear broken branches and cut new growth of brush. This cemetery is being overgrown with ferns and its stone wall needs some repair.

Shawn Holden, of Holden Memorials, has not repaired the three headstone foundations he worked on last year because of the COVID-19 virus. We will plan to make these repairs next year.

This year we had one interment, installed one headstone, located a spot for another headstone to be installed, and sold two lots.

Cemetery Commissioners: Lynn Eckhardt, May Bigelow, Jay Snyder, Dick Adams, Clarence Nichols and honorary member Monk Ogden

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence Nichols

Clarence Nichols is retiring from the Cemetery Commission this year. We cannot possibly thank him enough for all that has been accomplished with him at the helm. Both of the cemeteries in town have been cleaned up, bushes cleared and stones cleaned and straightened.

Every Memorial Day Clarence has seen that there are enough American flags to be placed by each veteran's grave. All of this he does with grace and dignity while always making certain that both cemeteries are kept in immaculate conditions and that the records, maps and deed books are maintained and organized.

Thank you, Clarence, for all your love of Landgrove,

Lynn Eckhardt, May Bigelow, Jay Snyder, Dick Adams

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Cemetery Operating Account

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance | 10,339.90 |
|------------------------|------------------|

Income

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Town Appropriation | 6,500.00 |
| 2019 Article 7 | 7,000.00 |
| Prior Year Adjustment | 2,088.00 |
| Plot Sales x 3 | 2,500.00 |
| Plots Sales Recording Income | 30.00 |
| General Donations | 200.00 |
| Veterans Memorial Donations | 5,790.00 |
| Insurance Settlement - Cem Wall | 700.00 |

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Total Income | 24,808.00 |
|---------------------|------------------|

Expense

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Veterans Memorial Expense | 857.58 |
| Routine Maintenance | 5,985.00 |
| Stonewall Repair | 700.00 |
| Paper Statement Fees | 24.00 |
| Bank Research Fee | 31.00 |
| Brush Clearing | 6,750.00 |
| Flags and Holders | 130.00 |
| Recording Fees | 30.00 |
| Transfer to Endowment | 600.00 |

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Total Expense | 15,107.58 |
|----------------------|------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Balance as of 12/31/20 | 20,040.32 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|

Note:

Cemetery Balance includes \$4932.42 held
in reserve for the Veterans Memorial Project.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Clerk's Report

What a challenging year! Your Clerk had the busiest year yet with the Census count and five elections to administer, all while adjusting to safer practices made necessary by a global pandemic. Office hours needed to be restricted, but land records were maintained and access was kept possible by extra hours and appointments to keep those who could be working, working and those who needed property transactions moving to not be held up on the Clerks account. Many thanks to Assistant Clerk Lori Langevin for helping keep recordings on target while I devoted attention and hours to ballot tracking and election administration.

Thank you all for answering the call, pitching in and being flexible as needed. Despite the challenges, Landgrove completed the US Census last summer, and turned in state of Vermont-best voter participation numbers in both the Primary and a record- blasting 94% for the General Election! We also had 5 new volunteers to work elections and hand count and reconcile our ballots. You are all fabulous for helping make out Town #1, and for strengthening democracy! I want us all to remember that our government and our elections are by and for the people, literally: the volunteers are your neighbors and friends, your Local Election Official/ Town Clerk, the Board of Civil Authority who count and work the elections are voted by you from among yourselves. Serving the public by ourselves is the purest democracy and something to be proud of. You did it, Landgrove! You did it together!

Respectfully submitted,

Chrystal Cleary

TOWN MEETING CHANGES FOR 2020

THE HEARING:

**Mon. March 1 at 6pm via Zoom
(see inside front cover for details)**

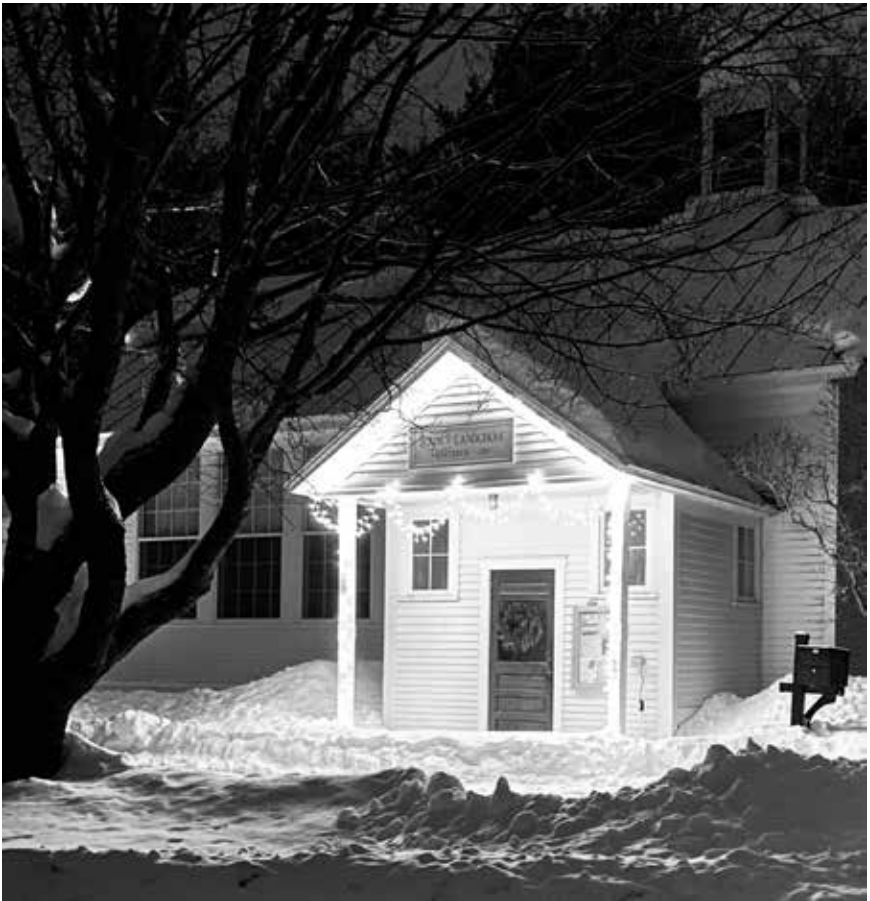
TO VOTE:

**at Town Hall Tue. March 2 8am–7pm,
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TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Landgrove Community Club

As with many organizations this year, the Landgrove Community Club activities were entirely shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, from our perspective, the sense of community and love of place grew tremendously. We rallied together to pool food and donations for two local organizations – The Neighborhood Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels of Bennington County. Collectively, we raised over \$9000 and 7 large bags of food and personal care items. And the donations kept coming in early January. Many of the donations included notes of support and gratitude for the place we are all lucky enough to call home. In 2021, we hope to resume activities and to build on the sense of community and support we saw in 2020.



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Landgrove Historical Society

Our continuing goal is to gather documents, photos and artifacts of historical significance to Landgrove, and to make the collections accessible to the public.

Our office in the Town Hall is open on Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Because of COVID-19 we did not hold any events this year. If the vaccine roll-out is successful, we hope to resume activities this summer. We have not, however, been idle. Soon to be published is “Landgrove’s Greatest Generation,” a book of stories about those with a connection to Landgrove who served in WW II. Once published (May?), copies will be available at our office. If COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, this will also be the theme of our summer show.

We have copies of the recently published book by Paul M. Searls, professor of history at Northern Vermont University- Lyndon, “Repeopling Vermont,” available for purchase in the Society’s office. This book tells the story of Landgrove from the 1880s to the 1970s, focusing on the recruitment of Swedish settlers in 1890 and the contributions of Samuel Ogden from 1929 onwards.

Board of Directors:

Rob Badger, President
Meg Pennypacker, Treasurer
Christine Morfit, Secretary
May Bigelow
David Eckhardt
Susan Goetze
Sally Ogden
Marion Sweetman

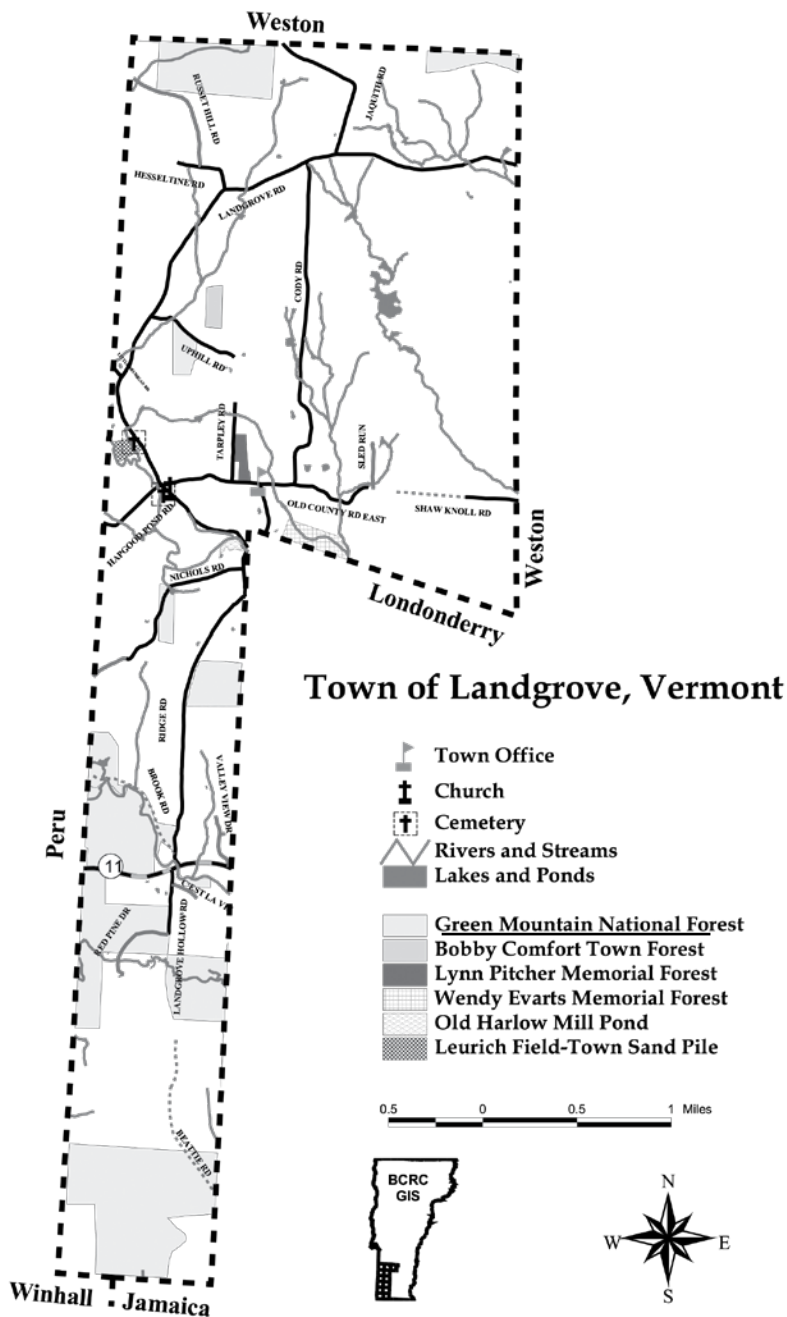
Advisors: Jonathan Bigelow, Priscilla Grayson, Ann Ogden Hausslein, Anne McClaren, Andrea Ogden, Hope Pinkerton.



Vermont sand dollars from some logging in southern Landgrove.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Map of Town Lands



Map produced January 28, 2016 by BCRC.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Listers' Report

We are all happy to see 2020 end for so many reasons. We all know how hard a year it has been on so many people across this state and this country. Welcome 2021 as we all are cheering for you.

The Listers are also pleased that our town wide reappraisal/update has been completed. Again, when we do this type of town wide review we use the professional services of NEMRC to assist us. We started in September of 2019 (pre pandemic) and finished in June 2020 in the midst of all the craziness.

We have undertaken this extensive process every six years (2008, 2014, 2020). The challenges this time were significant given the difficult environment and given there was virtually no in person/hands on support available from state or regional advisors. Moreover, as usual, the state and software providers continue to change and “tweak” programs and reporting requirements almost without notice.

In spite of all that, our community members (residents and nonresidents) and town officials have been helpful and very supportive. That attitude and high level of cooperation are appreciated every year but especially this past year. Thank you.

We also visited and/or reviewed remotely all nine additions and permitted changes in properties from April 1, 2019 to April 1, 2020. The land curve was also adjusted this reappraisal year. In addition all state reports were submitted in a timely manner given all the unusual circumstances this year. The increase in the complexities of lister responsibilities continues to be a concern throughout the state. Happily we did get a “report card” from the Property Valuation Review department that reviewed our reappraisal work as part of their annual equalization study. While will did find a few corrections/adjustments that had to be made after our filing with the state in the summer, those were corrected in a timely manner. Then in January we received their highest grade (“satisfactory”) in all categories they check.

We reviewed, as we do annually, all current use filings as reported by the state. Even this process became more challenging for us this year due to a variety of circumstances. In addition, we reviewed and recorded in our files and on our software programs all property transfers from data provided the state.

Landgrove's 5700 acres consists of approximately 220 parcels of which over 160 have structures. After completion of our town wide reappraisal/review process, there were four grievance hearings held at the lister level; after the listers' decisions on those grievances, one of those decisions was appealed to the BCA for a hearing. No appeal went beyond the decision of local BCA.

As mentioned, the computer system, various state software programs, as well as the NEMRC system seem to always be changing or adding new level of sophistication for all cities and towns regardless of the size. This adds even more work and/or the need for more training to perform our duties in an effective and

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

professional manner. Thanks to Kim Eckhardt and Nemrc personnel for handling all of our data entry and technology responsibilities.

All the various state forms and reports were filed on time and were accepted. We should note that Equalized Education Grand List for Landgrove for 2020 is \$99,562,224. Our CLA (common level of appraisal) for the year is 98.41%. This is essentially how close a town's local assessments are to fair market value. A number below 100% means property is generally listed at less than fair market value but with 98.41%, we feel positive about our position. When the CLA falls below 85% or over 115 % the state requires a town wide reappraisal.

We also want to report that our COD (coefficient of dispersion) is 5.71%; a COD of less than 10% is considered "excellent" and reflects a relatively high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments. A COD of between 10%-19% is viewed as "reasonable" where over 20% would require a state ordered reappraisal.

We would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Jerry Hassett for his outstanding service as a lister for the past 14 years!! Jerry is a great number cruncher and could always be counted on to focus on the big picture and what made sense.

Blair McCaw has replaced Jerry as of December to finish out Jerry's term that expires in March 2021. Blair has agreed to stand for reelection for a three-year term.

We also are losing from the lister board Kim Eckhardt who for 5 years has been our lead technology guru with major responsibility for data entry and keeping current with ever changing state and NEMRC software reporting systems and requirements. We thank her for her dedicated hard work. That does create an opening to finish out her remaining two years of her term. Anyone interested in becoming a lister and would like more information please contact Chuck Sweetman or a town official.

Respectively submitted with great optimism for 2021. Stay well.

Kim Eckhardt, Blair McCaw, Chuck Sweetman

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

School Director's Report

This has been a year unlike any other in memory. Since the time of the last Town Meeting, our schools have been transformed many times over. From the sudden closure and transition to virtual learning last March, through the measured reopening of hybrid options this fall and winter, our teachers, administrators, families and communities have rallied time and again (and again, and again!) to find new ways to care for our children and communities. It has been an enormous challenge. We should all be proud and thankful for the ongoing and exhausting efforts it takes just to keep things running - with learning and laughter, no less!

In a time of extreme financial stress and community need, one might expect school budgets to be on the rise. In a glimpse of good news, this is not the case this year. Through thoughtful fiscal management, staffing adjustments and re-structuring, the proposed total education spending for T&G in FY22 is \$30,832,071 before deduction of local revenues, 1.9% less than the FY21 amount. While this may be welcome news, this is far from the full picture, as decreased state tax revenues are putting upwards pressure on local taxes, regardless of fiscal conservatism on the part of the school district. I encourage readers to seek details of the 2021-22 budget and spending plans and tax implications in the Taconic and Green Regional School District Director's Report, available at the Town Hall and online on the BRSU website. Further, it would be reasonable to expect that the cost reductions made possible this year may not carry forward to future years once full in-person learning resumes and federal supports diminish.

Budget considerations aside, COVID-19 has forced schools to step into new roles and offer vastly new services, from delivering meals last spring to creating all new teaching and learning plans for in-person and remote learning, simultaneously. Classrooms are divided and spaced, the cafeteria is closed (though meals are available, and free), and arrival and dismissal are a choreographed dance of thermometers, hand sanitizer and facemasks. This is not school anyone would recognize, and yet the most important parts are still there - relationships between teachers and students, friendships, curiosity, creativity, and some laughter mixed in - especially at recess.

In the coming year, the Taconic and Green schools will continue to evolve and adapt to new realities. As a board, we are seeking input from the community on perceptions of the purpose of our schools in today's world. Our schools should be hopeful and creative spaces, and they should reflect the needs and desires of our children while preparing them for the future they will inherit. What does that mean to you? How can we all help re-imagine and co-create the schools for the future? Please share your thoughts - we're listening!

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Freeman

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Burr and Burton Academy Sending Town Letter

Dear Sending Town School Boards and Residents:

This letter is to announce that Burr and Burton Academy's sending town tuition will increase by 2.8%, to \$18,490, an increase driven primarily by a 10% increase in the cost of medical insurance. In considering our tuition, we share the following thoughts:

As we near Town Meeting Day 2021, we also approach the one-year anniversary of Covid disrupting our lives, shutting down our businesses, and closing our schools. On March 16, 2020, BBA made the decision to shift to remote learning. Because we had been preparing for this possibility, only two days later, we were able to reopen as an online school. We transitioned to online classes, we held virtual meetings, we gathered via zoom and other platforms; we even created an online spring musical, *Hair*, that was amazingly well done. We focused on what we could do rather than what we couldn't, and we culminated the school year with a senior fire truck parade, individual cap-and-gown ceremonies for each senior, and a drive-up commencement at the Bromley parking lot complete with a huge diamond vision screen.

This past fall, we opened the school year using marquee tents as outdoor classrooms, video conferencing technology for every class, enhanced ventilation and cleaning protocols, and an absolute commitment to safely bring students back on campus, in person. We recognized that the steps would be costly (we have incurred over \$500,000 in extraordinary Covid-related expenses this year), and we have met the financial challenges by increased fundraising and tapping our cash reserves. Our entire faculty and staff accepted a salary freeze in recognition of these financial challenges and uncertainties.

We have navigated through the school year operating in hybrid fashion to reduce the density in our classrooms while still encouraging the essential student-teacher bond that is a hallmark of a BBA education. Our teachers have faced extraordinary challenges and have demonstrated flexibility, resilience, and care. Through it all, BBA students are showing an indomitable spirit as they roll with the punches, embrace BBA for what it is today, and struggle - and mostly succeed - with hybrid learning. Their efforts and successes inspire our efforts and successes and remind us what we knew all along: a caring, supportive community is the foundation for great education.

We have done our absolute best to contain costs while meeting the arduous challenges of the current school year. With a Covid vaccine on the horizon, the future is bright, but there is no getting around the 10% increase in healthcare costs, an increase experienced by all schools throughout Vermont.

We sincerely appreciate the tremendous support we have received throughout this school year, and we ask for your support and your vote to continue as an appreciated and valued BBA sending town.

Respectfully submitted

Mark H. Tashjian, Headmaster Ed Campbell, Chair, Board of Trustees

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Veteran's Memorial Report

To date, the following tasks have been completed: The site was prepped, the marble block was selected, moved, and erected (and scrubbed several times!), and the marble bench was set-up. Six lilac bushes and one maple tree were purchased and planted. A hole has been opened in the cemetery's rear wall and two steps have been emplaced. The Veteran's Memorial Committee is currently searching for the perfect quote to put on the Memorial, as well as planning for on-site improvements to be completed in 2021 before the dedication, which we hope to have on-site on Veteran's Day, Thursday, November 11th, 2021. The list of tasks to be accomplished before the dedication include completion of the steps and path leading from the back of the cemetery to Leurich Field, construction of a small stone wall in front of the marble bench (between the two maples left standing between the intermittent stream and the memorial site), emplacement of the plaque on the marble block, and general site beautification.

The Landgrove Veteran's Memorial Committee would like to thank several individuals for their generous support of the project. Jay and CJ of Merrill's Excavating did all the clearing around the walls of the old cemetery, prepared the site for the monument itself, and transported the four plus ton block of marble from Danby to Landgrove. In addition to his tremendous support, guidance, and assistance with the initial phases of the project, Monk Ogden donated the block of marble and the bench that has been set-up under the maple tree beside the monument. Karl Pfister donated his time, equipment, and expertise to build the steps leading from the back of the cemetery to the path leading to Leurich Field. Clarence Nichols' calm, unmitigated, and reasonable support of the project from day one provided the momentum to begin and continue its development. Curt and Martha Cowles (owners of Glebe Mountain Gardens in Londonderry) generously provided the lilacs and maple tree at cost. Landscaping expertise was provided by Megan Little and John Maxson, both of whom visited the site several times to give ideas and suggestions. Finally, the Veteran's Committee sent out only one donation request to our taxpayers and we were overwhelmed by your generous response. To date we have raised over six thousand dollars in support of the project! In short, the success of the project is a direct result of the efforts and generosity of many folks, both town taxpayers and people who live outside of Landgrove. Thank you all so much.

With regard to finances, there have been \$6,290 in donations and \$1,357.58 in expenses (marble transportation and set-up and purchase of lilacs, maple tree, and mulch rings), so the project currently has \$4,932.42 available in its account. If you would like to make a donation to the Landgrove Veteran's Memorial project, please send a check to the treasurer (payable to "Landgrove Treasurer"), with a note in the memo section reading "Veteran's Memorial". If any funds remain at the completion of the project, they will be assigned to the Cemetery Commission to be used as they deem appropriate.

Please contact any of the Veteran's Memorial Committee members with questions, suggestions, or concerns. Thank you and be well. Respectfully,

Nick Careless, Chrystal Cleary, Susan Collins, Greg Eckhardt and Kara Evarts

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Treasurer's Report

This year the treasurer function was focused on increased accountability. The town auditors have been working throughout the year to revamp the way the town books are audited. They have been guided by resources from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and by Steve Love from Love, Cody & Company, CPAs in Bennington. He is also serving as an on-call advisor to the treasurer. Lori Langevin was appointed in September as Delinquent Tax Collector and hired as Assistant Clerk in October. She brings a great deal of accounting and municipal experience from, among other things, her job at the Windham Central Supervisory Union. I am grateful to be working with this dedicated team of people.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Ogden, Treasurer



Flood Brook made a heart this winter to share with everyone.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Trustees of Public Funds

The Trustees of Public Funds manage two funds for the people of Landgrove. Both funds are managed by Stifel-Nicolaus.

The first fund is the Cemetery Endowment. This fund was established as an endowment to ensure that the cemeteries of Landgrove would be maintained in perpetuity. The principal of the fund is not to be touched, and each year the Trustees of Public funds will determine what percentage of the interest on the account can be disseminated to the Cemetery checking account to go toward maintenance of the cemeteries. The account has two funding mechanisms in addition to the growth associated with the investment vehicles - a \$200 fee that is incorporated into the sale of each new cemetery plot and the \$1000 Town Appropriation that is a part of the Town's annual General Fund budget. We are pleased with the overall growth and interest rate of this account in 2020, however, the Trustees agreed to again return the interest income back into the account. Our goal remains continued growth.

The second account in the care of the Trustees of Public Funds is the Conservation Fund. This fund was created in order to support Landgrove property owners with costs associated with future land conservation efforts. Over the years, the idea of repurposing this account has been raised but there is no action on this concept at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dick Adams, Andrea Ogden and
Sally Waite

Cemetery Endowment Fund

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance | 65,928.02 |
| Income | |
| Town Appropriation | 1,000.00 |
| Town Appropriation - PY | 1,000.00 |
| Plot Sales x 3 | 600.00 |
| Interest | 996.19 |
| Unrealized Gain on Investment | 9,184.40 |
| Total Income | 12,780.59 |
| Expense | |
| No Activity | - |
| Total Expense | - |
| Balance as of 12/31/20 | 78,708.61 |

Conservation Fund

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance | 27,661.22 |
| Income | |
| Interest | 430.98 |
| Unrealized Gain on Investment | 3,833.66 |
| Total Income | 4,264.64 |
| Expense | |
| No Activity | - |
| Total Expense | - |
| Balance as of 12/31/20 | 31,925.86 |

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Zoning & Planning

In 2020 we were sorry to bid farewell to our long-serving member and good friend, Jerry Hassett, who moved from the area. We were fortunate to welcome our new member Ryan Foster and look forward to his contributions in the years ahead.

Like every other government and business, we were forced to move our meetings and hearings online. After an initial period of learning, this worked quite well.

The Zoning Administrator received a total of 14 applications for action in 2020. We were able to hold meetings and hearings on a total of 6 permit applications that required public hearings. Most of these involved residential properties, were straightforward and involved few issues.

One application was considerably more complicated and controversial, however. In March, Blue Flame Gas submitted an application for the establishment of a business office, creation of a service yard and construction of a gas propane storage facility at the property at 3 Valley View Drive. This property is within the area designated by the Town Plan as a commercial district. This application generated considerable concern and opposition from surrounding property owners. After three public hearings with significant public participation, careful review of documentation submitted by Blue Flame (including a significantly revised proposal), submissions by interested parties and extensive consultations with the Town's legal counsel, the ZBA denied this application. (All documentation related to this application is available on the town's website.) Blue Flame has subsequently appealed this decision to the state authorities. No decision has been rendered yet. In the meantime, Blue Flame has relocated just its office facilities to this site, a use which is consistent with the permitted uses for commercial districts in the Town Plan.

Respectfully submitted.

Harry Lux (Chair), Ryan Foster, Mary Licata, Michael Mole, Michael Morfit, Josh Wengert

How to Contact the ZA?

Will Goodwin • langzba@gmail.com

Office Hours at Town Hall: Thursdays 8am–11am or by appointment

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Londonderry Solid Waste Group Report

LONDONDERRY SOLID WASTE GROUP Serving the towns of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Weston, Windham

COVID-19 and Solid Waste has been the focus of everything so why should trash be any different? During the COVID-19 state of emergency, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) asks the public to please take the following precautions when visiting solid waste facilities and drop offs. Only visit if you are healthy, keep it simple, only bring waste that can't wait like trash and food scraps, minimize the number of trips, practice social distancing by keeping 6 feet of space between other customers and staff, and please wear a mask. Keep yourself and the staff healthy.

Vermont's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation makes manufactures of products like Computers, Batteries, Paint, Mercury Light Bulbs and Mercury Thermostats take responsibility for their products at the end of their useful life. To find year-round drop-offs call 1-855-63-CYCLE or go to VTrecycles.com. Legislation for packaging will be the next focus for EPR. This will offer financial relief for the collection, hauling and processing of packaging materials.

Household Hazardous Waste Events: If you missed our two events this past year, visit londonderryvt.org/recycle and click on the A-Z list for information on how to dispose of architectural paints, alkaline and rechargeable batteries and cell phones, mercury thermostats, fluorescent bulbs, prescription medications and electronics. Londonderry Group members can also dispose of materials at the Rutland County Solid Waste District, but there are charges involved. For more information, visit <https://www.rcswd.com/hhw/>.

Food Scrap Ban: As of July 1, 2020, food waste has been banned from disposal in landfills. Residents, institutions, businesses and schools should divert their food waste by contracting with their haulers, bringing food to the transfer station, composting at home, feeding food scraps to domestic animals, donating to food banks and reducing the amount purchased to avoid wasting food. Haulers are required to offer collection for businesses, schools, institutions, and apartments of four units or more so contact your hauler for assistance if you're in one of these categories.

Single Use Plastics: After July 1, 2020, stores and food service establishments are no longer providing plastic carryout bags at check-out. Plastic bags are allowed in stores and food service establishments for certain materials (e.g., fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, hardware items, frozen foods, meat, fish, prescription medications) or for laundry, dry cleaning, and other large garments. Stores and food service establishments may provide paper carryout bags at check-out for a minimum of \$0.10 each. Food service establishments will no longer offer plastic stirrers to customers. Plastic straws may still be given to customers, but only upon request. Stores and food service establishments will no longer provide or sell food or beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene (known as Styrofoam) including plates and cups, trays, egg cartons, and take-out containers. Expanded polystyrene is still allowed for trays used to package uncooked meat, fish, poultry, or seafood, products packaged out-of-state or packaged for sale out-of-state.

Be Careful What You Put Down the Drain: Many materials, especially household hazardous waste, should NOT be poured down the drain, either to a septic tank or field. These chemicals are toxic, will kill the organisms that break down waste, and will enter surface and groundwater supplies. Flushing prescription drugs down the toilet should also be avoided as these have been shown to harm fish and amphibians. Visit <http://www.londonderryvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Cloggers-full-brochure-FINAL.pdf>

If you have questions, want to join the Londonderry Group's mailing list to receive alerts about special collections (hazardous waste & electronics) or if your school or business is interested in learning about ways to handle solid waste, organics, recyclables and other materials please contact recycle@londonderryvt.org.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2020

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) was voted into existence in March 2019 by 12 towns in Bennington County. We have since grown to 13 towns: Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Peru, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sunderland, Woodford.

In less than a year we have:

- Been awarded grants totaling \$190,000, plus \$12,000 awarded to Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) to support our efforts,
- Conducted on a utility pole survey to lay the groundwork for fiber optic network construction,
- Entered into a teaming agreement with Tilson, a network technology company, Green Mountain Power (GMP), and others to seek federal grants for rural broadband.

While the bid for federal rural broadband grants was not successful, we did build relationships with Tilson and GMP that continue to enhance and inform our development.

In June 2020 we were awarded a \$60,000 Broadband Innovation Grant (BIG) from the state of Vermont to undertake a feasibility study of building a fiber optic network in Bennington County. Preliminary results from that study suggested we need to grow in size and merge or collaborate with the also newly formed Deerfield Valley CUD in Windham County in order to be financially viable. Such a collaboration has been in the minds of people in both counties from inception. We are currently redirecting our feasibility study to evaluate a two-county solution for getting broadband to our under-served.

In September we were awarded a \$100,000 COVID relief grant to accelerate our network deployment plans. That was used to conduct a utility pole survey in our most under-served towns, Sandgate, Rupert, Peru, Dorset. A pole survey is a necessary first step toward network design and construction. Each pole we intend to hang fiber on must be evaluated in several measures, such as:

- Does the pole need replacement or reinforcement?
- Will other telecom lines need to be moved to accommodate ours?
- Is the pole in a favorable position to branch to a residence?

COVID relief money has allowed us to start early the design work for fiber optic network construction.

The Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) donated \$30,000 to SoVT CUD and the other CUDs for operating expenses. This money was sorely needed and greatly appreciated. Previously, SoVT CUD volunteers who had been giving so generously of their time were also giving their money for basic operating expenses like teleconferencing software and filing fees.

In December, the FCC awarded \$16B for rural broadband in its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) reverse auction. Consolidated Communications (CCI) and SpaceX received significant awards in our area. This has changed the landscape significantly. Many areas that we had hoped to serve are now obligated to CCI and SpaceX. Our two-county feasibility study is working to create financial models to evaluate this new landscape.

All the representatives, alternates, and officers of SoVT CUD have given mightily to this effort and deserve respect and gratitude. They have made for an impressive first year.

**TOWN MEETING
CHANGES FOR 2020**

THE HEARING:

**Mon. March 1 at 6pm via Zoom
(see inside front cover for details)**

TO VOTE:

**at Town Hall Tue. March 2 8am–7pm,
or mail (ballots mailed to you)**



Thank you, to the voters of Landgrove for the sunflowers and note of appreciation. I was surprised when they arrived and delighted, and reminded that while this election was a lot of work and attention to precision, security and accuracy at every step, the effort was absolutely worthwhile. I thank the Select Board, Justices of the Peace, and all of the voter-volunteers for their service, and all the voters who turned out at a record 94% to vote! These sunflowers really cheered me and I admired them for many days after!

Town of Landgrove
88 Landgrove Road
Landgrove, VT 05148

TOWN MEETING CHANGES FOR 2020

THE HEARING:
Mon. March 1 at 6pm via Zoom
(see inside front cover for details)

TO VOTE:
at Town Hall Tue. March 2 8am–7pm,
or mail (ballots mailed to you)